

EMILE ZOLA

NOVELIST AND REFORMER

INTRODUCTORY THE ZOLA FAMILY—BRIEF OF SMILE ZOLA

The meaning of " Zola " — Localities of that name — The
Zola family of
Brescia and Venice — Giovanni Battista Zola, saint and
martyr — The
Abate Giuseppe Zola and his chequered career — The
military Zolas of
Venice — Benedetta Kiariaki and her offspring —
Francesco, father of
Simile Zola — His military training — He "becomes an
engineer and plans
one of the first " railways " in Europe — His service in
the French Foreign
Legion and its strange ending — He plans new docks
for the port of
Marseilles — His schemes for fortifying Paris and
providing Aix in
Provence with water — He meets Françoise Smilie Aubert
— His romantic
courtship and marriage — His home in the Rue St.
Joseph, Paris —
Birth of Jüniile Zola — Literature in England, America,
and France in
1840 — The birth of Jules Zola followed by that of
Alphonse Daudet —
Contrasting characteristics of those writers,

IT has been contended, -with some
plausibility, that the
Italian word *zola* is simply a variant of *zolla*>
which means,
in a restricted sense, a clod or lump of earth,
and, in a broader
one, the glebe or soil This circumstance has
suggested to
certain detractors of Emile Zola and his
writings the scornful
remark that he was at least well named, having
been, indeed,
of the earth earthy. Others have retorted,
however, that he
may well have taken pride in such association,
for, far from
disowning his Mother Earth, he acknowledged
and proclaimed

her beneficence, showed himself her worthy
son, and a true
and zealous brother to all compounded of her
clay. In the
course of the present memoir it will become
necessary to
examine the blame and praise so freely
showered upon Zola